



The Voice

Volume 66
Issue 1 Fall 2020

Article 17

Doing Real Work for Real People with Real Needs

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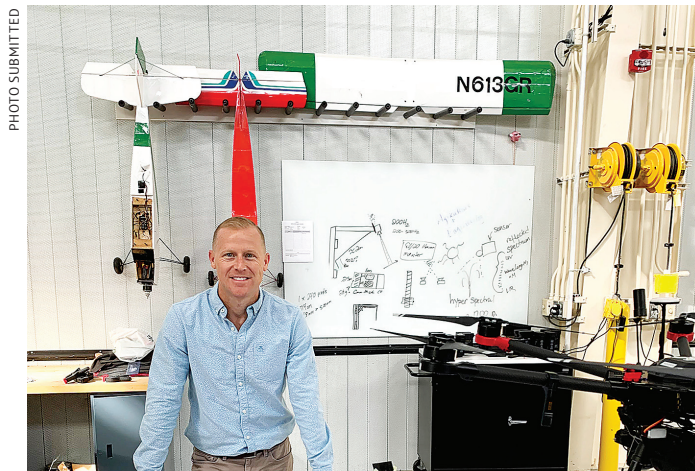
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Recommended Citation

Bowar, Alicia (2021) "Doing Real Work for Real People with Real Needs," *The Voice*: Vol. 66 : Iss. 1 , Article 17.

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"Dordt prepared me to move forward with conviction, purpose, and faith, and that has had a profound impact on my life," says Boomsma.

to performing research in biotechnology and precision agriculture, to coordinating start-ups with venture capitalists. Over time, he has found a deeper appreciation for the verse "give us this day our daily bread."

"Growing season after growing season, a farmer employs the art and science of agriculture and mixes it with a heavy dose of faith," he says. "Overall, I find it very gratifying to perform research and educate in the areas of food security, environmental conservation and improvement, and farm and rural sustainability. It is a profession that routinely allows me to use my passions and talents in the service of God and his redemptive work."

Others have also recognized how Boomsma has been equipped for Christ-centered renewal in the world of agriculture.

One of his nominators for the Horizon Award shared, "Chris is a master teacher, but one whose products are educational resources that deliver economic, agronomic, environmental, and social sustainability insights to North American production systems. Despite his youth, leadership aptitude is also evident in serving on director boards like the American Society of Agronomy and the American Seed Trade Association."

Boomsma's skills go beyond scientific knowledge. A nominator wrote that Boomsma has "superb analytical and exceptional writing skills" in addition to recognizable leadership qualities.

These skills have allowed Boomsma to work with many in the industry, such as agronomists and conservationists, with non-profits and government, and more.

"For a kid from a suburb on the south side of Chicago, it has been quite a journey thus far. Now, as I look back on it, I see how God orchestrated it all, using my skills and knowledge to serve in his world in ways I never anticipated or thought possible," says Boomsma.

BETHANY VAN VOORST

DOING REAL WORK FOR REAL PEOPLE WITH REAL NEEDS

People who step up and reach out: that's who Dordt alumni and families are. There are countless stories of these people making a difference in their corner of Defender Nation.

Willa, the daughter of alumni Chris ('09) and Jessica (Veenstra, '09) Vogel in Minneapolis, is a kindergartner on a mission to raise money for her school. And this isn't just any fundraiser. She's created a flower stand that also offers root beer floats and is selling homemade hot cocoa to friends and family. Her goal? To help families who need tuition assistance be able to attend her school.



Recent graduate Ebby Prewitt ('20) partnered with students at her high school alma mater, Des Moines Christian School, to send letters to residents and healthcare workers in nursing homes during the early days of the pandemic. Ebby made an impact by blessing others through a note from someone that cares during a time when these residents have limited contact with family and friends outside their home.

Chad Meekhof, who is currently enrolled in Dordt's sport leadership program, is a history and outdoor education teacher at Rehoboth Christian High School in New Mexico. Like many teachers, he thought creatively about how to prepare for a unique year of learning. He built an outdoor teaching platform, lecture podium, chalkboard, and firepit so learning could happen outside for his students. Chad's outdoor education curriculum is designed so students gain a deeper appreciation for God's creation.

We often hear that community is what makes Dordt so special, and that's so much broader than what happens on campus for two or four years. It's how you are taking community into new spaces. You're expanding the community reach by drawing others in as you live out community in tangible, serviceable ways. Dordt alumni, students, and families are doing real work for real people with real needs.

Alicia Bowar

ALICIA BOWAR ('05), ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AND PARENT RELATIONS



Willa Vogel's goal was to raise \$250 for her school. So far, she has raised \$420.